



Happy New Year, DFO'ers! We're well into winter birding now, and the new issue of *The Lark Bunting* newsletter of Denver Field Ornithologists is on it, with winter sparrows on the cover. The February–March 2024 issue is now available on the DFO website at [https://dfobirds.org/LB/2024/02\\_Feb\\_2024\\_LB.pdf](https://dfobirds.org/LB/2024/02_Feb_2024_LB.pdf). Inside, you'll find plenty of birding news, views and photos:

**+ About those bird names:** DFO member and essayist **Jared Del Rosso** offers his take on the intent and function behind re-naming scores of bird species with more descriptive names than the last names of long-ago humans who may or may not have had a thing to do with birds . . .

**+ More DFO trips than ever:** 2024 was another record-setting year for our club's birding outings. Field Trips chair **David Suddjian** shares the stats and shout-outs from trip participants to the unsung (until now) heroes of DFO's most popular activity: the trip leaders themselves . . .

**+ But I would bird TWO-THOU-SAND miles:** DFO member **Mark Amershek** did that and more on a three-week expedition through northern Argentina with six other Colorado birders. He shares a gallery of some his hundreds of photos of amazing subtropical species from the Red-tailed Comet Hummingbird to the Andean Condor . . .

**Plus:** A tribute to **Ann Bonnell**, the longtime DFO member, "Tuesday Birders" leader and conservation activist who died near year's end . . . our club president's call for home gardeners to convert sod yards into bird-friendly patches of native plants and grasses . . . one last, sad update before anytime, any-day birding at Chico Basin Ranch goes the way of the Dodo at the end of February. . . more BIRD BOMBS, the year's first evening program (via Zoom), and much more!

It's *The Lark Bunting*'s mid-winter break, so happy mid-winter birding, everyone, and we'll be back in early March!

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Former DFO president Tamie Bulow (2005–2007) will join us via Zoom on Monday January 22 at 7 pm to present “Birding the Lower Rio Grande Valley: Top 5 Hotspots and More,” Bulow says she will reveal “five places that are a must visit” for birders, “and another 30 or 40 that won’t disappoint.” She also says there are “15–20 specialties that you must come to the Rio Grande Valley for,” including Great Kiskadee and Green Jay, Buff-bellied Hummingbird and Altamira Oriole, Groove-billed Ani and Green Kingfisher.

Register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_KSemDLjfSMiqc57S4WPZcw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KSemDLjfSMiqc57S4WPZcw)



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## DFO Digest

### Updates & Reminders

January 2024

An important announcement for all DFO members and readers of The Lark Bunting

As announced by our Lark Bunting editor, Pat O'Driscoll, in the latest edition (Feb-Mar 2024, page 7, "[So long until March — but while we're away . . .](#)"), DFO is moving towards a new kind of Lark Bunting. Why? Because Pat and the team want to advance our newsletter format and delivery method to best fit the preferences of our current readers. If you'd like to share your thoughts about this process, please visit our website and send us a message from the [home page](#) in the Contact Us panel.

### NEW — Upcoming programs

Visit the [DFO Programs & Events page](#) for more information and to register.

**MONTHLY PROGRAM** — Monday, January 22, 2024, 7 PM MST.

- **Birding the Lower Rio Grande Valley: Top Hotspots and More**, by Tamie Bulow. [Register for the webinar](#).

Before moving to the Lower Rio Grande Valley to manage the South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center, former DFO president Tamie Bulow (2005-2007) worked as manager of conferences, conventions and tours for the Colorado-based American Birding Association. Now retired, Bulow lives in the border city of Harlingen, TX, but continues to dabble in birding work.

Bulow says she will reveal "five places that are a must visit" for birders, "and another 30 or 40 that won't disappoint." She also says there are 15-20 specialties that require you come to see them in the Rio Grande Valley: Birds like Great Kiskadee and Green Jay, Buff-bellied Hummingbird and Altamira Oriole, Grove-billed Ani and Green Kingfisher.

**BIRD BOMBS** — Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm MT

- **Colorado Bird Taxonomy Made Simple:** [Register for the webinar](#).

A mini webinar on Colorado bird taxonomy (generally stated, the physical, genetic and behavioral characteristics of a species).

### HAWK WATCH

- **Webinar on Raptor Identification**  
Wednesday, February 21, 7:00-8:30 pm MT. [Register for the webinar](#).  
Hawk Watch trainer and former DFO president, Dave Hill, will lead a Zoom webinar, "Hawk Watch at Dinosaur Ridge: Community Science at Work," on beginning raptor ID and skills and details about volunteering for this annual spring project.

- **Hawk Watch Volunteer Field Orientation.**

Saturday, February 24, 10 am - 12:30 pm MT. [Register for this in-person activity.](#)

Join experienced hawk watchers at the Dinosaur Ridge viewing platform for on-site orientation.

Prospective volunteers can also visit [DFO Hawk Watch](#) for more information. To join the Hawk Watch Volunteer email list and express your interest in volunteering, contact [Janet Peters](#), Hawk Watch Committee chair and volunteer coordinator.

**ARCHIVES** — Remember to check out the past Monthly Programs and Bird Bombs you may have missed by visiting the [Past Programs](#) page.

## **DUE — Reminders for opportunities to join DFO activities**

### **FIELD TRIPS**

A sample of trips coming up soon. Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page for more information and additional upcoming field trips. These fill up fast.

To get the most out of DFO field trips, read our participant guidelines, [Better Birding with DFO](#). And check out our [condensed version of these guidelines](#).

- [Ken Caryl Valley area](#) — Sun, Jan 21, 4:15 to 5:45 am

This special trip will try for Northern Saw-whet Owl down among the hogbacks near Ken Caryl Valley. We have a good chance to hear Saw-whet, and we might see one. But there are never guarantees! We may hear Great Horned Owls, too. We will carpool from the meeting spot in two cars. We will walk only short distances or not much at all.

- [South Platte River Trail at 88th avenue and vicinity](#) — Sun, Jan 21, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

We will see lots of ducks, a few raptors, and some hardy winter residents while looking for rarities such as the Barrow's Goldeneye in this winter ecology exploration. We will walk along a paved trail and occasionally in the adjacent grasses for 3 miles, and perhaps more if you are up for it. If it's particularly cold, we will head south to the wastewater treatment outflow where enormous numbers of ducks gather when everywhere else is frozen. We will walk back to 74th and some participants may choose to leave at that point. That would be about 3 miles total there and back. For those who want to do another 2 miles, we will walk north. Along the way we will also scan the adjacent reservoirs that often harbor diving ducks, including the occasional Long-tailed Duck and various Scoters.

- [Aurora Birding](#) — Wed, Jan 31, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

We'll visit birding hotspots in the City of Aurora and may look for rare bird stakeouts too. This trip will include a visit to the less-birded south side of Aurora Reservoir, where we will explore grassland, scrub and riparian, and view the lake. Sometimes this is a good area for viewing waterfowl and gulls. Let's explore! If there is not too much snow cover, we will stage a special-permission foray into the city's restricted access Ponderosa Preserve to see what birds may be in the pines in winter. And we will look for birds at our Red-tailed Hawk Park meeting spot. If a wintering rarity is in the city, we might shake up our plans to see it.

## **DÉJÀ VU — Recent items for renewed awareness**

- In Focus: [Sweet 17 of December's trips](#) (The Lark Bunting, Feb-Mar edition, pages 20-27).

Wow, what a way to end the 2024 DFO birding year: "Birders birding" photos from 17 of the 21 field trips we sponsored during December. This

is our latest (and largest) installment of Field Trips in Focus, where we mark DFO trips with pix of what the birds see.

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**We have three timely updates to share:**

**Bird Bombs, Chico Basin and King Soopers**

## **BIRD BOMBS – Taxonomy Program Postponed**

DFO has postponed the upcoming Bird Bombs program, "Colorado Bird Taxonomy Made Simple," which was originally scheduled for February 15.

Registered participants should have received a notification from Zoom. DFO will announce a new date and registration information as soon as possible.

## **CHICO BASIN – END OF OPEN BIRDING**

Chico Basin Ranch will close to the public beginning March 1.

Over the past two decades, Colorado birders have filed nearly 11,000 eBird checklists from Chico Basin Ranch and its eight eBird hotspots. Learn more in The Lark Bunting, [February-March edition](#), page 28.

## **KING SOOPERS – FREE REWARDS FOR DFO**

DFO now is a recipient of the King Soopers Community Rewards program.

at King Soopers using your loyalty card – at no added cost to you? Visit the [King Soopers Community Rewards page](#) to learn how the program works and to set up your Sooper Card for DFO. You will need a KS Sooper Card account to take advantage of this program. If you don't have a Sooper Card, visit <https://www.kingsoopers.com>, select Sign In, then Create Account.

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## **DFO Southwest Colorado Birding Tour**

**May 19 – May 24, 2024**

**Registration opens on the [DFO Upcoming Field Trips page](#) at 12:00 pm MT, Saturday, February 17.**

**Registration opens at 12:00 pm MT, Saturday, February 17.**

DFO goes southwest this May with David Suddjian on a birding tour of **nine counties** in our state's spectacular southwest region. We will target the final four counties DFO has never visited on a field trip: Mineral, Archuleta, Dolores, and San Juan counties. Southwest Colorado has iconic mountain and mesa landscapes, wonderful forests, and a rich variety of migrants and nesting birds. This tour will visit key locations in each county and look for birds in a variety of settings. We will seek specialties like Lucy's and Grace's Warblers, Scott's Oriole, Black-throated and Sagebrush Sparrows, Gray Vireo, Gambel's Quail, Lewis's Woodpecker, Flammulated Owl, Purple Martin, and a wide array of other migrants.

**Day 1: May 19.** Depart the Denver area early. Birding in Mineral and Archuleta counties, visiting areas near Wolf Creek Pass and Pagosa Springs. Birds of mountain forest and alpine settings, as well as majestic Ponderosa pines and lakes. Overnight at Durango at Comfort Inn & Suites (455 South Camino Del Rio, Durango, CO 81303).

**Day 2: May 20.** Birding in La Plata County in the Durango area and up into the San Juan Mountains. Overnight at Cortez at Quality Inn near Mesa Verde (1120 East Main, Building A, Cortez, CO 81321).

**Day 3: May 21.** Birding in Montezuma County near Cortez in the mesa and canyonlands, and into the San Juan Mountains. Overnight at Cortez at Quality Inn near Mesa Verde.

**Day 4: May 22.** Birding in Dolores County in the Dolores River watershed, near Dove Creek, and up into the San Juan Mountains for wonderful forests. Overnight at Cortez at Quality Inn near Mesa Verde.

**Day 5: May 23.** Depart Cortez to head over the San Juan Mountains. Birding in San Juan and Ouray counties. High mountain birding and down much lower along the Uncompahgre River at Ridgeway State Park. Overnight at Montrose at Quality Inn & Suites Montrose – Black Canyon (2751 Commercial Way, Montrose, CO 81401).

**Day 6: May 24.** Depart Montrose for Denver. Birding in Mesa County near Grand Junction at the Colorado National Monument looking for Gray Vireo, Black-throated Sparrow and Gambel's Quail.

The leader will provide a full listing of species and detailed itinerary and birding plan.

We will have full days of birding, plus long drives on the first and last days. We will try one optional evening owling effort. Plan for a variety of weather, including possible high temperatures some days. Walking distances will probably not exceed 2-3 miles per day; some may be on trails and in hilly terrain. We will try to take advantage of hotel breakfasts, but lunch will be out in the field. We will have a group dinner each evening at a local restaurant, no doubt enjoying some good Mexican food some days.

This trip is limited to eight participants (including the leader). All participants will be carpooling in two cars, belonging to participants Linda Purcell and Anne Craig; they will serve as the principal drivers. Note: we will refrain from eating in the cars and take advantage of opportunities outside the vehicles to snack and eat.

Participants are responsible for paying for their lodging and food. A **\$250.00 trip fee** will cover transportation expenses for the trip (following the DFO mileage rate) and help defray the leader's expenses for transportation and meals. Any funds not needed for these expenses will be returned to the trip's participants after the trip.

A **deposit of \$100** is due by March 19, and may be refunded if registration is canceled before April 19. The **remaining \$150** is due by April 19, and the trip fee is not refundable after April 19.

As noted above, we will be staying at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Durango, the Quality Inn near Mesa Verde at Cortez, and the Quality Inn & Suites at Montrose-Black Canyon. Participants are advised to make reservations at these hotels as soon as possible. Book directly through [choicehotels.com](https://www.choicehotels.com)

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## DFO Digest

### Updates & Reminders

February 2024

#### NEW — Upcoming programs and events

Visit the [DFO Programs & Events page](#) for more information and to register.

##### **SPECIAL PROGRAM — Hawk Watch at Dinosaur Ridge: Community Science**

Wednesday, February 21, 7 p.m. MT. [Register for the webinar.](#)

The Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch begins March 1 and runs through May 10.

This webinar is the first of a two-part training program for volunteer observers. Part two is an on-site orientation on Saturday, February 24, 10 a.m. We encourage all interested volunteers to join these training sessions, but they are not required for participation in the count. Learn more on the [Hawk Watch Volunteer Resources](#) web page.

##### **MONTHLY PROGRAM — Gardening on the Wild Side**

Monday, February 26, 7 p.m. MT. [Register for the webinar.](#)

Join award-winning Colorado landscape designer/horticulturist Jim Tolstrup, director of the High Plains Environmental Center in Loveland, for a backyard garden-inspiring presentation focused on the relationship between native plants and wildlife. Tolstrup founded the center 20 years ago to promote wildlife-friendly landscape design and maintenance practices. His book *Suburbitat: A Guide to Restoring Nature Where We Live, Work, and Play*, details the center's efforts to bring native landscapes into everyday neighborhoods.

Register for Gardening on the Wild Side today for inspiration and concrete ideas about how to begin. To view more about the center and its work in advance of Tolstrup's presentation, visit High Plains Environmental Center's [YouTube page](#) and check out the videos.

##### **OUTREACH EVENTS — 2024**

DFO is considering participating in a number of 2024 bird-lover events in June, Sept and Oct, and we may reach out soon for volunteers who like to talk to people (especially children) about birding. DFO will provide training and all the necessary supplies. Look for more information about these events in upcoming Digests, Bulletins and Lark Buntings.

#### DUE — Reminders for opportunities to join DFO activities

**Field Trips:** A sample of trips coming up soon. Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page for more information and additional upcoming field trips. These fill up fast.

- [South Platte River in Littleton](#) — Easy — Sun, Feb 25, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- [Fort Collins Area Streams and Lakes](#) — Moderate — Sat, Mar 9, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- [Barr Lake State Park](#) — Easy — Sat, Mar 9, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- [South Platte River Trail at 88th Avenue and Vicinity](#) — Easy — Sat, Mar 9, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## DÉJÀ VU — Recent items for renewed awareness

- **Hawk Watch 2024: Who's ready to help DFO count spring raptors on Dinosaur Ridge?**

Don't miss your chance to witness our observation of the annual spring migration of hawks, eagles and other birds of prey. Join Denver Field Ornithologists' 2024 Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch, March 1 through May 10. For more information, visit [The Lark Bunting, Feb-Mar 2024 edition](#), page 10.

### **Why dozens of North American bird species are getting new names**

On Nov. 1, 2023, the American Ornithological Society announced that it will rename 152 bird species that have names honoring historical figures. Soon, bird counters will no longer find Cooper's Hawks hunting songbirds. They won't scan marshes for Wilson's Snipes. And here in Colorado's Front Range, we'll no longer encounter Townsend's Solitaires. New names will take the place of these eponymous ones. Learn more in the [Feb-Mar 2024 edition of The Lark Bunting](#), page 16.

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It's not-quite-but-almost-spring, DFO'ers: time for the last newsletter of winter 2023-24, which is now available for reading and viewing on the DFO website at [https://dfobirds.org/LB/2024/04\\_Apr\\_2024\\_LB.pdf](https://dfobirds.org/LB/2024/04_Apr_2024_LB.pdf).

Inside the April 2024 issue you'll find stories in words and photos on:

- + **The American Dippers of Bear Creek Greenbelt:** Photo gallery, essay
- + **Zoom vs. in-the-room:** Time for DFO to gather in person again?
- + **Upcoming programs:** mountain owls, disappearing Whip-poor-will
- + Tuesday Birders share warm memories of **Ann Bonnell**
- + **Denver's new urban forest plan:** Will it help the birds who live in our trees?
- + **House Sparrows in decline:** Do we care? If not, shouldn't we?
- + Look-back glimpses of **DFO birders birding** on 21 of the 40 January and February field trips since our last newsletter

And plenty more. So, good reading . . . and good almost-spring birding, everyone!

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## DFO Digest

### Updates & Reminders

March 2024

#### NEW — Upcoming programs

Visit the [DFO Programs & Events page](#) for more information and to register.

- **Monthly Program — Small Mountain Owls of Colorado.**  
Monday, March 25, 2024, 7 PM MDT via Zoom. [Register for the webinar.](#)

Colorado's foremost expert on owls, Scott Rashid, is back by popular demand. This time, Rashid will home in more closely on four of those species with "Small Mountain Owls of Colorado," a new DFO evening program. His discussion will explore the natural history of the Northern Pygmy-Owl, Flammulated Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Boreal Owl. Rashid will discuss courtship, egg-laying, incubation dates, growth of the young, habitat preferences, food habits and more for these species. His presentation will include images and videos of the birds in their preferred habitats.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you cannot attend this program live via Zoom on March 25, DFO will post a recording of this presentation on the [Past Programs](#) page of the DFO website for ONLY ONE WEEK afterwards at the presenter's request.

Rashid's books: *Small Mountain Owls*; *The Great Horned Owl: An In-depth Study*; *Northern Goshawk, the Gray Ghost: Habits, Habitat, and Rehabilitation*, and *Exploring the World of the Barn Owl: (An intimate look into their secretive lives)*.

- **Bird Bomb — Spring Shorebird Salute**  
Thursday, April 4, 2024, 7 PM MDT. [Register for the webinar.](#)

#### DUE — Upcoming field trips

Here is a partial list of upcoming field trips. Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page soon to discover additional trips and sign up while space is still available.

- [Ken Caryl Valley Area \(Developing Birder Trip\)](#) — **Thu, Mar 21, 8:30-11:30 AM.**  
Let's go birding at a handful of spots in the hogbacks of Ken Caryl Valley and nearby lands. We will visit South Valley Park and maybe range south to Deer Creek. We'll look for nesting Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk and maybe Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle or bluebirds will appear.
- [Littleton \(Developing Birder Trip\)](#) — **Mon, Mar 25, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.**

We will visit a handful of small parks and greenways in the western portion of unincorporated Littleton to see how spring is unfolding. We will see a variety of kinds of birds, looking at some lakes, marshes and riparian corridors. We will view Great Horned Owls, and try to view Virginia Rails, and get to know some new birding spots -- hidden jewels, we could say.

- **[Clear Springs Ranch Regional Park \(El Paso County\)](#) — Sat, Apr 6, 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
All-day moderate trip with first half at Clear Springs Ranch Regional Park (east side of I-25 at Exit 123). Then we will drive north to Fountain Creek Regional Park for lunch and walking the park. We should find a nice variety of species and will be looking for early migrants as well as residents.
- **[Fowler and North Spring Brook Trails \(Boulder County\)](#) — Sat, Apr 6, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.**  
We will hike a 4-mile loop on gravel roads and single track trails at the mouth of Eldorado Canyon. The trail circumnavigates the steeply dipping Dakota hogback and a recent burn where the birding and geography is both very cool. Think fossilized sand and golden eagles.
- **[Larimer County](#) — Sun, Apr 7, 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.**  
This full day trip will explore a selection of parks and natural areas of Larimer County. We will look for early migrants, nest season preparation, and perhaps we'll see an owl.

### DÉJÀ VU — Recent items for renewed awareness

- **“Grains for cranes”** program aids San Luis Valley’s Sand Hill Cranes.  
As the Monte Vista Crane Festival greets thousands of Sandhill Cranes in Colorado’s San Luis Valley enroute north this spring, an effort to help preserve resources for their migration stopover is gaining notice. A handful of local farmers is setting aside croplands within a 10-mile “Goldilocks zone” around Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge to help feed the flocks. It’s called “Grains for Cranes.” All of this is explained in a Sunday feature story in The Colorado Sun, the Denver-based e-newspaper. For The Sun’s full report, go to <https://coloradosun.com/2024/03/03/grain-for-cranes-program-sandhill-migration/>. Part of [The Lark Bunting’s](#) DFO News Notes, by Patrick O’Driscoll, April 2024 edition, page 7.
- **Question: Where did all the House Sparrows go?**  
Next question: Why should we care? And how should birders feel about the decline of House Sparrows?  
  
Jared Del Rosso points out that in their journal paper “Dirty Birds, Filthy Immigrants, and the English Sparrow War,” sociologists Gary Alan Fine and Lazaros Christoforides document how ornithologists and others in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century used anti-immigrant rhetoric to turn public attention against the species. Except that, as House Sparrows decline, they often leave empty ground.  
  
Overall bird numbers already are on the decline across the country and across habitats. Who refills the House Sparrow’s niche? Read the full essay by DFO’s Del Rosso in [The Lark Bunting](#), April 2024 edition, page 23.

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Dear Birders,

Spring and seasonal migration are here, and so is the new issue of DFO's *The Lark Bunting* newsletter. It's now available for reading and viewing on the DFO website at [https://dfobirds.org/LB/2024/05\\_May\\_2024\\_LB.pdf](https://dfobirds.org/LB/2024/05_May_2024_LB.pdf).

Inside the May 2024 issue you'll find stories in words and photos on:

- + **Birds Plus:** New DFO field trip series to include other critters, themes
- + **Final spring program:** disappearing Whip-poor-will's history, culture
- + **Solitaires playing nice?:** photo gallery, essay
- + **Time to vote:** DFO election mini-profiles
- + **In memoriam:** Hawk Watch volunteer **Charlie Wall**
- + **Craning on the Platte:** memories of a Nebraska outing
- + **Chico Basin reopening:** What to know, when to go

And plenty more. So, good reading . . . and good spring birding, everyone!

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Greetings DFO Members,

You will soon be receiving your electronic ballot to vote for DFO Officers and Directors for the coming year. We will be voting for 4 Officers and 4 Directors. We do not have a candidate for the VP position. A short bio for each of the candidates is included in this month's Lark Bunting which can be found here: <https://dfobirds.org/LB/2024/0...>. Please do take the time to learn about the candidates and vote. It will only take a moment. Ballots are due by April 24.

If you would like to learn more about the leadership and volunteer opportunities at DFO, go to our web page and click: About DFO/DFO Leadership. This area outlines all of the various positions and their functions. We welcome new faces and new ideas. Please contact me at [mfg5000@live.com](mailto:mfg5000@live.com) if you have any comments/questions.

Thanks for voting!

Mary Geder

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## Annual Election of DFO Directors and Officers

Greetings DFO Members, It is time once again for the annual election of DFO board members and officers. The DFO Board of Directors meets quarterly and is tasked with governance of the organization. All nominated board members are volunteers and members of DFO in good standing. Please complete your ballot by April 24 at 6pm. To learn more about the candidates, check out the current issue of The Lark Bunting on the DFO website. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Mary Geder at [mfg5000@live.com](mailto:mfg5000@live.com). Thank you for your participation! Mary Geder, Chair Nominating Committee

[Click here to begin voting](#)

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## DFO Monthly Digest

### Updates & Reminders

November 2022

#### **NEW — Upcoming programs**

Visit the [DFO Programs & Events page](#) for more information and to register.

#### **MONTHLY PROGRAM — The Lonesome Whip-poor-will: The Untold Story of America's Most Iconic Bird**

Monday, April 29, 7 p.m. MDT. [Register for the webinar.](#)

- DFO member Jared Del Rosso will explore the largely untold story of his favorite bird, the Whip-poor-will. An almost mystical icon of early American culture, the species figured prominently in the seasonal lives of a largely still agrarian-oriented land. But today, they're on the brink of forgotten.
- American musicians, poets and writers made the Whip-poor-will a legend. Country singers transformed the birds into icons of lonesomeness and rural life. Poets and nature writers wondered about the species' strange, menacing name. Horror writers spun Whip-poor-wills into the stuff of nightmares. But with time, says Del Rosso, something has changed. Since the 1970s, Eastern Whip-poor-will numbers have fallen by more than two-thirds.
- Del Rosso, who teaches at the University of Denver, is writing a book on Whip-poor-wills for New York University Press's "Animals in Context" series. Learn more at his webpage at [lonesomewhippoorwill.com](https://lonesomewhippoorwill.com).

**Please note:** This monthly program is in conjunction with the annual DFO business meeting. We have emailed ballots to all current members. **Cast your vote for our new board of directors and officers.** Learn more in the May edition of [The Lark Bunting](#), page 14.

#### **BIRD BOMBS: Spring Into Warblers 2**

Thursday, May 9, 7:00 p.m. MDT. Identification of Colorado's nesting warblers.

- Forty-seven kinds of warblers have been recorded within the state, but fewer species regularly visit and still fewer breed, hatch and fledge their young here. [Register for the webinar.](#)

#### **DUE — Upcoming field trips**

Here is a partial list of upcoming field trips. Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page soon to discover additional trips and sign up while space is still available.

- **Audubon Nature Center — Fri, Apr 26, 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.**  
The first part of the trip will be a 1/4 mile walk to the banding station where we will spend an hour with Bird Conservancy staff banding birds.

This section is accessible for most mobility limits. From there we will walk/bird on dirt trails along the South Platte for 1-2 miles.

- **Waterton Canyon (Developing Birder Trip) — Sun, Apr 28, 6:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Explore up beautiful Waterton Canyon along the South Platte River to look for spring migrants, maybe a Dipper, Golden Eagle or Canyon Wren. Plan for several miles of walking up and down the canyon on an easy trail.

- **Roxborough State Park — Thu, May 9, 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.**

This trip is for all levels of birders, and beginners are especially welcome. We will cover 2.4 miles with a small change in elevation. Join us for a spring walk through the unique habitats of the beautiful Fountain Valley Trail and Roxborough's stunning red rocks. We will look and listen for the many Roxborough spring migrants, as well as year-round residents.

- **Denver City Park (Denver County) (Patch Birding Trip) — Sat, May 11, 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.**

In May, migrant songbirds and more are passing through, and City Park's regular summer and year-round residents (magpies, flickers, finches, chickadees, et al.) are nesting and beginning to fledge young. So are the famous Duck Lake cormorants. We'll look for the Common Merganser mom who has nested in the park the past four years and hatched broods of 8-10 young. We'll also look for the park's regular nesting Swainson's Hawks and a Bushtit nest or two.

## DÉJÀ VU — Recent items for renewed awareness

### BIRDS PLUS: Enriching some DFO trips with added themes

As most of us learned soon after we first went out to look at birds, this pastime of ours intersects with so many other fields, subjects and experiences of natural, cultural and human interest. Isn't it time we celebrated this richness? Learn more in the current [Lark Bunting](#), page 9.

## Denver Field Ornithologists

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Oh, heck, I neglected to copy and paste Pat O's entire message to you about the June Lark Bunting. Here it is:

It's the height of spring migration in Colorado, and DFO's latest newsletter has arrived, too. *The Lark Bunting* newsletter is now available for reading and viewing on the DFO website at

[https://dfobirds.org/LB/2024/06\\_Jun\\_2024\\_LB.pdf](https://dfobirds.org/LB/2024/06_Jun_2024_LB.pdf).

Inside the June 2024 issue you'll find stories in words and photos on:

**+ Bikes + Birds:** DFO's first two-wheeled field trip won't be the last. Saddle up!

**+ Snow? High winds? Is it still spring?:** Yes, and a photo gallery of familiar seasonal returnees is proof

**+ READ THIS issue:** DFO's newsletter is at a crossroads — to be or not to be?

**+ Remember DFO life before Zoom?:** Time for some in-person mingling, no?

**+ 2024 grantee projects:** Shrikes, chickadees, bird rehab, wildlife ed and more that YOU are funding

And plenty more. So, good reading . . . and good peak spring birding, everyone!

## Denver Field Ornithologists

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## DFO Digest

### Updates & Reminders

May 2024

#### NEW — Upcoming programs

**MONTHLY PROGRAM** — DFO offers monthly programs, usually on the fourth Monday, in January – April and August – November. Now's a good time to catch up, in case you missed one or two, on the [Past Programs](#) page.

#### BIRD BOMBS

- **Tropical Color** — Jun 20, Thu, 7:00 p.m. MDT. Identification of Colorado Orioles, Tanagers, Grosbeaks and Buntings. [Register for the webinar](#).

#### DUE — Upcoming field trips

##### SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Denver Region Garden Crawl**, May 26, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. DFO and [Wild Ones Front Range](#), which promotes native plant landscaping, are collaborating for a Denver Garden Crawl. Registered participants in this free event will move as a group through four residential gardens, all in transition from conventional landscaping to native plantscapes. Our club president, Sharon Tinianow, will be at one of the gardens to talk about the importance of native plants to the bird species that visit our Front Range yards. [Registration is required](#).

**FIELD TRIPS** — A sample of trips coming up soon. Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page for more information and additional upcoming field trips. Several of these very close to full already.

- [Audubon Nature Center](#) — Fri, May 24, 7:30 – 10:30 a.m. The first part of the trip will be a 1/4 mile walk to the banding station where we will spend an hour with Bird Conservancy staff banding birds. After that, the trail becomes less accessible.
- [Anne U. White Trail](#) — Sat, May 25, 6:00 – 9:30 a.m. Anne U White trail is a 3 mile out and back hike in the foothills north of the city of Boulder. It slopes gently upwards from the parking lot following Fourmile Canyon Creek through wooded evergreen and riparian habitat.
- [Prospect Park](#) (Wheat Ridge Greenbelt) — Sun, May 26, 7:00 – 10:00 a.m. Prospect Park/Wheat Ridge Greenbelt features a variety of habitats, and we can expect to encounter a nice array of warblers, flycatchers, swallows, and more. We will cover about 2-3 miles on paved or hard-packed gravel trails, with a short boardwalk section.

- [Eldorado Canyon State Park](#) — Mon, May 27, 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 pm.  
This is one of my favorite summer trips. The trail will require sturdy footwear. We will hike the entire mountain, but the descent will be easy. Expect to see Virginia's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hermit Thrush, Red-headed Woodpecker, and, last but not least, Ovenbird! This is an 8-mile hike.
- [Lair o' the Bear Park](#) (Jefferson County) — Mon, May 27, 6:00 – 9:00 a.m.  
We will explore the birds of Lair o' the Bear Park via a ~3 mile hike, stringing together the Bruin Bluff Trail Loop and the Creekside Loop. We can expect to encounter a nice variety of warblers, flycatchers, swallows, and more.

## DÉJÀ VU — Recent items for renewed awareness

### DFO grant fund awardees for 2024

Thanks to the generosity of Denver Field Ornithologists members and other donors, six grant applicants are receiving a combined \$9,888 in financial aid this year from DFO's Research, Conservation & Education Fund. The winning endeavors were chosen from 11 very interesting applications reviewed by the DFO Grants Committee and approved in February by the DFO Board of Directors.

Visit [The Lark Bunting](#), June 2024 edition, page 12, for summaries of the grantees' projects.

## Denver Field Ornithologists

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It's hot out there for bird and bird nerd. So find some shade and give a read to DFO's latest newsletter. This month's issue of *The Lark Bunting* is now available for reading and viewing on the DFO website at [https://dfobirds.org/LB/2024/07\\_Jul\\_2024\\_LB.pdf](https://dfobirds.org/LB/2024/07_Jul_2024_LB.pdf).

Inside the July–August 2024 issue you'll find stories in words and photos on:

**+ DFO's final frontier:** Our longest-ever in-state field trip bagged first DFO visits to the last four of Colorado's 64 counties. From Black-throateds, Red-neckeds and Flammulateds to Grace's and Lucy's, read about who they saw and how they did

**+ Not just any book sale:** Longtime member Barry Knapp recently donated dozens of books to DFO, some of them rare and valuable. We're putting the best up on eBay starting **Saturday, June 15**. For the first month, they're available only to YOU, readers of our newsletter. Read all about it in **Sharon Tinianow's** *From the President* column

**+ Prairie prep with Chef Shrike:** From the lens of **Dave Prentice** comes this month's fascinating *Last Word, Last Look* gallery of an eastern Plains "butcherbird" getting ready for dinner. Moth *a la* Loggerhead? (chef's kiss!)

And plenty more: DFO volunteer needs/opportunities, spring @ Chico Basin Ranch, next "BIRD BOMBS" webinar, handy bird rescue/rehab app . . .

So, good reading . . . and good summer birding, everyone!

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In last week's email about the new *Lark Bunting* newsletter, we announced a special eBay sale of dozens of bird-related books donated by longtime DFO member **Barry Knapp**. Accessible through a link in the newsletter, the sale was to start on Saturday, June 15.

Unexpectedly, a widespread Chrome browser/PDF glitch blocked access to our pre-sale list of books. Then unrelated technical malfunctions on eBay delayed loading the book-sale pages. After troubleshooting through the weekend, both technical issues are now resolved and the book sale is open.

To see an illustrated booklist with descriptions, go to this link on the DFO website: [https://dfobirds.org/Documents/Book\\_List.pdf](https://dfobirds.org/Documents/Book_List.pdf). To access the sale on eBay (including prices and shipping), go to this new eBay link: <https://www.ebay.com/sch/267/i.html?item=166829002759&ssn=thegreatbe65>

Buyers who wish can forgo shipping by choosing free local pickup. The books will be at the home of DFO president **Sharon Tinianow**, 864 S. Corona St., Denver 80209 (Washington Park neighborhood).

Good bird booking!

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# DFO 2024-25 MEMBER SURVEY

From time to time, Denver Field Ornithologists surveys its membership to ensure that the club's focus remains true to members' preferences. Please share your thoughts with us in this short survey (no more than 5 minutes of your time) as we begin to plan activities in DFO's 90th anniversary year. The survey will be available until July 10. For best viewing, we advise you to take this survey on a computer. If you must use a smartphone, hold the device sideways.

Take the survey

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## **DFO Digest**

### Updates & Reminders

June 2024

#### **NEW — Upcoming programs**

Visit the [DFO Programs & Events page](#) for more information and to register.

#### **MONTHLY PROGRAM**

DFO's monthly programs are on summer break — a timeout so all of us can catch a breath and perhaps review past programs we may have missed, which, by the way, are still available on our [Past Programs](#) page.

#### **OTHER EVENTS**

##### **DFO BOOK SALE. Ongoing.**

Check out our [booklist descriptions](#) on the DFO website, then access the sale on [eBay](#) for availability, prices and shipping. Buyers who wish can forgo shipping by choosing free local pickup (in Denver's Washington Park neighborhood). Contact our DFO president, Sharon Tinianow, for more information. And good bird booking!

##### **CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK APPRECIATION DAY. July 20.**

Cherry Creek State Park is having their Lake Appreciation Day on July 20, 2024, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. They are looking for volunteers to help with park maintenance and then share their knowledge (about birds at a DFO table) at the new swim beach building for the day.

Schedule:

8 to 11 a.m. - Volunteers will pick up trash on the trails

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Volunteers gather for a grilled lunch

12:30 to 1:00 p.m. - Set up our DFO table

1 to 3 p.m. - DFO Volunteers staff our event table

#### **DUE — Upcoming Options**

##### **HAWK WATCH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The outgoing Hawk Watch Committee, which has led DFO's annual ten-week spring migration raptor count on Dinosaur Ridge near Morrison in Jefferson County, has four vacancies in need of volunteers. Volunteers will form our new committee to start immediately in preparation for the upcoming spring 2025 watch season:

##### **Committee Chair -**

Oversee HW and represent the committee year-round to the DFO board.

**Hawk Watch Project Lead -**

Develop the plan and budget as well as the procedures and materials for training and management of counters for the upcoming Hawk Watch season. During the season, upload daily count data. Provide periodic watch summaries to DFO and partners.

**Hawk Watch Volunteer Coordinator -**

Recruit volunteer counters for the HW season and manage the daily volunteer schedule during the Hawk Watch season.

**Hawk Watch Education Coordinator -**

Oversee school, club, university or other organization educational field trips to Dinosaur Ridge to participate in and learn from DFO's HW program.

The volunteers who now fill these roles have offered to help train their successors. But time is of the essence. Please respond as soon as possible to DFO Volunteer Coordinator [Phil Waltz](#) to express your interest, questions and learn more about these vital volunteer posts.

Thanks in advance for your interest in these important positions – and for your support of DFO!

**DÉJÀ VU — Recent items for renewed awareness**

**From the Editor:** [The Lark Bunting](#), Jul-Aug 2024, page 7.

We'll be right back: It's summer break . . . and coming in 2025, DFO's 90th birthday! We hope you'll weigh in on DFO's celebration of our club's 90th birthday next year.

In the midst the Great Depression, DFO was founded as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935. Three decades later, club members and other Colorado birders decided to spin off a new birding organization with a statewide role. And Colorado Field Ornithologists was born. At the same time, our field trip-oriented club changed its name to Denver Field Ornithologists.

We want to celebrate this milestone by looking back at DFO's colorful history and looking forward to our centennial in 2035 and beyond.

**Denver Field Ornithologists**

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## DFO Digest

### Updates & Reminders

July 2024

### NEW

#### Upcoming programs and events

Visit the [DFO Programs & Events page](#) for more information and to register.

**MONTHLY PROGRAM** — DFO presents programs, usually via Zoom, on the fourth Monday in January through April and August through November.

#### BIRD BOMBS —

[Colorado Bird Taxonomy Made Simple](#), Thu, Jul 25, 7:00 p.m. MT. Bird taxonomy, the science of organizing and naming life forms, comes into play continually for birders. An understanding of bird relationships helps us in our identification and in our appreciation of what we see. This BIRD BOMBS will bring a Colorado focus to the topic and have practical connections to how we bird.

**ARCHIVES** — Remember to check out the past Monthly Programs and Bird Bombs you may have missed by visiting the [Past Programs](#) page.

### DUE

#### Reminders about upcoming DFO activities

**FIELD TRIPS** — A sample of trips coming up soon. Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page for more information and additional upcoming field trips. These fill up fast.

[Lake County](#) — Thu, Jul 25, 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This trip visits beautiful Lake County, which includes Leadville, Turquoise Lake, Leadville Fish Hatchery and Twin Lakes with an elevation 9,603 ft. We will seek hummingbirds, sapsuckers, sparrows, vireos and warblers. Meet at the lower end of the Stegosaurus Park-n-Ride and we will carpool from there.

[Park County Explorations](#) — Fri, Jul 26, 5:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This trip will visit several areas in northern Park County in the region of Jefferson and Kenosha Pass. We will visit high mountain prairie looking for bluebirds, Savannah Sparrow and maybe Prairie Falcon and others.

[Genesee Park](#) — Sat, Jul 27, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. **NOTE:** This special outing is open for registration only to DFO field trip leaders as we gather at Genesee Park for a summer Leader Appreciation Lunch and enjoy a little birding, too.

[Boulder County](#) — Sun, Aug 11, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. This trip is a **Birds Plus+** Geology trip: Stories in the Rocks. If you think geology is fascinating but too technical, this is the program for you. Boulder's rocks tell wild stories that

include dinosaurs, glaciers, vast swamps, oceans and ancient mountain ranges now vanished into the dust of time.

## DÉJÀ VU Recent items for renewed awareness

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Have you ever wondered who and what make DFO run? The answer is simple, and you probably already know it: People like YOU do.

Denver Field Ornithologists functions thanks to volunteers who step forward to ask: How can I help? As an all-volunteer organization, DFO exists only because people like you step up to offer your knowledge, experience and enthusiasm. Whether it's a few hours a month or lending a hand now and then, your time and energy are priceless assets.

Visit [The Lark Bunting](#), July-August edition, page 11.

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Dear Birders,

It's STILL hot out, but can you feel it, almost taste it, right? Here comes early fall migration! Get in the mood, DFO People, with our latest club newsletter. This month's issue of *The Lark Bunting* is now available on the DFO website at <https://dfobirds.org/DFO/LarkBunting.aspx?id=1981890775#gsc.tab=0>. Inside the September 2024 edition you'll find stories in words and photos on:

**+ Return to Sky Islands:** For the second year in a row, DFO field trip veteran **Joey Kellner** led vanloads of birders on a 12-day expedition through bird-rich southeastern Arizona. Life birds and on-the-road tales aplenty in this month's *Last Word, Last Look*

**+ 500 and counting:** On July 4, Field Trips chair **David Suddjian** notched his 500<sup>th</sup> time leading a DFO outing. He looks back on the birds, places and people — and ahead to the next 500 — in his *From The Field* column

**+ Get going native, for birds 'n' bees:** **Sharon Tinianow** wraps her series of *From the President* columns on the benefits of converting your turfgrass now to wild and native flowers, shrubs and grasses. Lots of in-town inspiration in our parks and wild pockets



And so much more: Chickadee wars! (a DFO grantee reports from the front), trip leader appreciation, fall evening Zoom program lineup (Aug. 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 28), volunteer needs/opportunities, and all about our cover bird, the Red-headed Woodpecker . . .

So, good reading . . . and a good start to autumn migration, everyone!

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## DFO Digest

### Updates & Reminders

August 2024

**Please Note:** DFO's Communications & Outreach Committee is trying out a new role for what we have called "The Monthly Digest." We're planning to shift the digest (soon to be renamed) in 2025 to take over more time-sensitive topics. Please share your feedback with us as we explore our in-the-works future. Thank you! [comm@dfobirds.org](mailto:comm@dfobirds.org)

## Stream a Live Program

### ATTEND A MONTHLY EVENING PROGRAM

DFO presents programs, usually via Zoom webinar, on the fourth Monday in January through April and August through November. They usually include time for Q&A. Up next:

**No Boundaries for Wildlife:  
Saving Tropical Birds in Colorado.  
Monday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m. MT via webinar. [Register.](#)**

We've all heard the familiar call to activism for Mother Earth: "Think globally, act locally." Longtime western Colorado wildlife conservationist **Nic Korte** suggests that North American "birderfs" put a Western Hemisphere twist to it: Think *tropically*, act locally.

Korte says he'll call us to that in "*No Boundaries for Wildlife: Saving Tropical Birds in Colorado*," his DFO evening program set for **Monday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m. MDT** via Zoom webinar. "Local actions here affect birds in the tropics," he says. "Some of those birds spend part of their lives in Colorado." Avoiding palm oil in products you buy helps not just the birds whose year-round tropical habitat might be saved, but also birds that live part of the year here in North America."

The motivation behind his DFO talk "is not to have people 'know' about the issues, but to inspire them to do something," Korte says. He thinks the fact that many of "our" birds spend more of their lives in the neotropics gives us a greater stake in their welfare there.

**The State of Birding, Volume 2024.9  
Monday, Sep 23, at 7 p.m. MT via webinar. [Register.](#)**

Distinguished Colorado guidebook author, avian journalist and birding free thinker Ted Floyd will discuss the latest in new knowledge, new tech, new

names, and, ultimately, new ways of engaging and appreciating the bird world.

Floyd is especially interested in analyzing bird vocalizations, applying new media and emerging technologies toward the appreciation of nature, and interpreting birds and nature for children and beginners. He is a prolific content generator for ABA's online platforms and is especially proud of his involvement in the association's Young Birder programs.

## BIRD BOMB YOUR WAY TO BRILLIANCE

Bird Bombs are helpful bursts of ID information presented by David Suddjian, the DFO field trip chair. Q&A time included. Upcoming session:

**Assfeet. Thursday, Sep 12, 7:00 p.m. MT via webinar.**  
[Register.](#)

Learn about the identification of Colorado's Grebes. The Grebe family name, *Podicipedidae*, is based on the genus, *Podiceps*, which is a combination of two Latin words meaning "rear-end" or "anus," and "foot" — a reference to the placement of a grebe's legs at the rear of its body.

## Sign Up to Join In TAKE A FIELD TRIP

Here's a sample of trips coming up soon. Visit the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) page for more information and additional upcoming field trips. These trips were still open as of the date of this message, but they do fill up fast.

[Barr Lake State Park Bird Banding Station](#) — Fri, Aug 30, 7:00 to 10:30 a.m. We will observe birds in the hand and perhaps release birds after the banding process. We will walk around the netting area to observe the netting process. From the station we will walk along the dike observing riparian birds and birds on the reservoir.

[Coal Creek Trail](#) — Fri, Aug 30, 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. *This trip is a Birds Plus+ Trip combining birding and another field focus, sometimes with a guest co-leader.* Birds Plus+ Beavers. In just over a year, beavers have engineered their riparian environs extensively creating various pockets of habitat for an array of other species. Since this is a Birds+ walk, we'll primarily focus on how beaver activity along this 1.5 mile stretch of Coal Creek has positively impacted local birds.

[First Creek at Green Valley Ranch](#) — Sun, Sep 15, 7:00 to 10:30 a.m. *This is a Patch Birding Trip — Get to know a birding hotspot favored by the leader.* This trip is a memorial walk along a short path to honor the late John Breitsch in one of his favorite patches. An admired DFO member, trip leader and Green Valley Ranch resident, John, who died in August, literally discovered this small gem — a rich urban migrant "trap" in spring and fall. We can't promise we'll find all the species that John's famously sharp eyes and ears would if he were walking with us. But we'll enjoy his special patch and honor his achievements with honorary co-leader Felice Lyons, a close friend of John.

## HELP STAFF WILDLIFE EVENTS

Join fellow DFO members to staff tables at birding and other wildlife-related events in the metro area. Share your enthusiasm for birds and DFO with table visitors, teach binocular skills to families, spend time visiting other booths and share additional resources available from DFO.

### Aug 29... Yampa Valley Crane Festival

DFO does not have a booth at this event, but we want to share information about it and encourage you to consider attending.

Thu Aug 29, 9:00 a.m. - Sun Sep 1, 11:00 pm MT.

Bud Werner Memorial Library, 1289 Lincoln Ave, Steamboat Springs

Hosted by [Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition](#), the annual Yampa Valley Crane Festival occurs when Sandhill Cranes gather in large numbers in the fall to feed and gain energy for their migration south. The festival is held in beautiful Northwest Colorado with events in Steamboat Springs, Hayden, and Craig.

## **Sep 14: Fall Birding Festival at Barr Lake State Park**

[Saturday, September 14, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Barr Lake State Park Nature Center.](#)

13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80603.

*From Bird Conservancy of the Rockies:* Come celebrate the magic of birds and all they have to teach us! The morning will kick off with guided bird tours and visits to our bird banding station where you can see birds up close and personal while learning the science behind banding.

Note: The state park requires a \$10/vehicle daily entrance fee or an Annual State Park Pass.

## **Sep 28: Refuge Day at Rocky Mountain Arsenal**

Help DFO celebrate [National Wildlife Refuge Day](#) on September 28 at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge, 6550 Gateway Road, Commerce City, CO 80022. We'll have a booth, and we encourage you to join us at this wildlife-rich refuge.

# **If You Missed It Back Then, Then Visit It Now**

## **REVISIT A RECENT LARK BUNTING ARTICLE**

### **AOS CHECKLIST UPDATE**

[The Lark Bunting, September edition, pg 8.](#)

The American Ornithological Society's annual mid-summer shuffle of species, taxonomic order, nomenclature and other bird classifications is out. Dozens of changes in North American species (mostly related to genetics) include a few notables among those we encounter in the US and Colorado. Check out the news piece in the latest Lark Bunting

FYI:

- The American Ornithological Society has launched a [six-species pilot project](#) to replace the names of North American bird species named after people. A public forum on the controversial project is scheduled at AOS's annual meeting in Estes Park, Oct. 1-5, 2024, at the AOS [Summit for the Birds](#).
- From AOS: Submit your ideas for suitable replacement names. Use the [online form](#) to submit your contact information and a brief summary of your expertise, interest, and ideas for renaming.

## **STREAM PAST PROGRAMS**

Remember to check out the past Monthly Evening Programs and Bird Bombs you may have missed by visiting the [Past Programs](#) page at DFO.

## **Denver Field Ornithologists GOT BLURBS ON BIRDS?**

Email your items, photos and any questions to DFO Communications and Outreach. We love to hear Colorado birding newsbits, eBird news, tales from the trails, personal birding life (and life birds!) milestones and more.

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## **DFO Bulletin**

August 25, 2024

DFO needs to reschedule our program planned for Monday, August 26, titled "No Boundaries for Wildlife: Saving Tropical Birds in Colorado," to a future date to be determined.

We apologize for any inconvenience. This change is at the request of DFO and not related to the presenter. Once we have a new date for this program we will re-announce it.

In the meantime, our next program is September 23, with Ted Floyd, "The State of Birding, Volume 2024.9." Check your email for the recent Lark Bunting or Monthly Digest, or check the [DFO Programs page](#).

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### **Denver Field Ornithologists**

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[Unsubscribe](#)



Dear Birders,

The heat we remarked on last month is still with us, even as early fall migration is well underway. There are still great birds to see out there — and in the pages of the new issue of *The Lark Bunting*, too. The October 2024 edition of DFO's mostly monthly newsletter is now available on the club website at <https://dfobirds.org/DFO/LarkBunting.aspx?id=1981890775#gsc.tab=0>. Look inside for these stories and more:

**+ Birds + Herps = overnight adventure in SE Colorado:** DFO field trip leader and herpetologist **Joey Kellner** led a late-July trek into the land of creepy-crawlies. His squad of "birpers" saw 83 species of birds and 16 kinds of snakes, lizards, toads, turtles, salamanders and more. Read the story and view the photo gallery in *Last Word, Last Look*

**+ In memoriam for an inventive, compassionate friend:** DFO trip leader and photographer **John Breitsch** died in early August after a months-long battle with abdominal cancer. Read our tribute, including memories from friends and birders whose lives he touched (and enjoy his cover-bird photo of a handsome Red-tailed Hawk)

**+ Taking the temperature of birding in 2024:** Colorado's most interesting (and interested) birder, **Ted Floyd**, is back for an evening program Sept. 23. "The State of Birding, Vol. 2024.9" will update new knowledge, new tech, new names, and new ways to enjoy our pastime. Read more in *Upcoming Program Previews*

Also: results of DFO's member survey (including the future of our newsletter), an update on the good that another DFO grant did for JeffCo schoolkids, details on a host of autumn birding-related events, and more.



Good reading and good autumn migration birding, everyone!

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# **dfo** **BULLETIN** DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS



September 13, 2024

DFO Monthly Program for September presents:

## **THE STATE OF BIRDING, VOLUME 2024.9**

**By Ted Floyd**

**Monday, September 23**

**7 p.m. MT**

**via webinar**

**[REGISTER](#)**

Distinguished Colorado guidebook author and birding freethinker **Ted Floyd** will discuss the latest in new knowledge, new tech, new names, and, ultimately, new ways of engaging and appreciating the bird world.

Ted Floyd serves as an editor of *Birding* magazine. He also contributes to the ABA website and the American Birding podcast. He is especially proud of his involvement in the association's [Young Birder programs](#). Ted is the author of five bird books, with three more on the way. He has published more than 200 articles on birds and other aspects of nature, and he is a frequent speaker at bird festivals and ornithological society meetings. He has submitted at least one complete eBird checklist per day for 6,378 consecutive days as of June 17, 2024. Ted and his family live in Boulder County, Colorado.

**[REGISTER](#)**

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## **DFO Digest** Updates & Reminders

**Please Note:** DFO's Communications & Outreach Committee is trying out a new role for what we have called "The Monthly Digest." We're planning to shift the digest (soon to be renamed) in 2025 to take over more time-sensitive topics. Please share your feedback with us as we explore our in-the-works future. Thank you! [comm@dfobirds.org](mailto:comm@dfobirds.org)

Sit back and enjoy our monthly Evening Programs and Bird Bombs

## **Stream a Live Program**



Monday, September 23

### **The State of Birding, Volume 2024.9**

At 7 p.m. MT via webinar. [Register](#)

Distinguished Colorado guidebook author, avian journalist and birding free thinker Ted Floyd will discuss the latest in new knowledge, new tech, new names, and, ultimately, new ways of engaging and appreciating the bird world.

Floyd is especially interested in analyzing bird vocalizations, applying new media and emerging

technologies toward the appreciation of nature, and interpreting birds and nature for children and beginners. He is a prolific content generator for ABA's online platforms and is especially proud of his involvement in the association's [Young Birder programs](#).

Ted is the author of five bird books, with three more on the way. He has published more than 200 articles on birds and other aspects of nature, and he is a frequent speaker at bird festivals and ornithological society meetings. He has submitted at least one complete eBird checklist per day for 6,378 consecutive days as of June 17, 2024. Ted and his family live in Boulder County, Colorado. (from the [ABA website](#))



Monday, October 28

### **Crossbills, the Finch Research Network, and the new Stokes Guide to Finches**

At 7 p.m. MT via webinar. [Register](#)

What makes a finch a finch? A heavy, conical bill meant for cracking open seeds, right? Not so fast, says Matthew A. Young, one of the nation's foremost researchers into the finch branches of the avian family tree.

Bill size and shape are "no longer the case with taxonomy," says Young, president and founder of the Finch Research Network and an expert in

the many calls of the Red Crossbill, another finch family member. Young will discuss all this and more in DFO's October evening program

Young is co-author of that new Stokes guide, due out in mid-September. "There is no guide to finches for the United States, if you can believe it," he notes. He's also the audio engineer behind much of the bird call and song recordings for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Merlin Bird ID app. And works with the Rosy Finch Working Group, which he says, "is looking into how climate change may play a big role in the future of rosy finches." He is co-leader of the International Evening Grosbeak Working Group, which is "trying to figure out what led to a 92% decline" in the species in the past 50 years.

Thursday, October 17

### **Eyes on Geese and Swans**

At 7:00 p.m. MT via webinar. [Register](#)

Learn identifications skills for Colorado geese and swans.

### **Stream Prior Programs**

Remember to check out the past monthly Evening Programs and Bird Bombs you



may have missed by visiting the [Past Programs](#) page at DFO.

Get out there for a great learning experience

## Take a Guided Field Trip

### Sunday, September 22 - Denver City Park



[Denver County. Developing Birder Trip.](#)

First official day of autumn 2024! We'll seek out southbound migrant birds passing through Denver City Park as well as year-round residents and early arrivals for winter. Although less than 2 miles from downtown, Denver's largest park is a reliable stopover for birds coming and going. Nearly 200 species have been recorded there since the late 1940s. In early fall, we've had shorebirds, warblers, flycatchers and other unexpecteds, too. With knowledgeable birders to help spot and ID the birds, this is a great outing for beginning birders and those looking to sharpen their skills in an environment as comfortable as your back yard -- yet as attractive to birds as an out-of-town open space.

From 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. Register

### Sunday, September 26 - Chatfield State Park



[Birds Plus+ Bird Photography](#)

Learn more about taking good bird photos with photographer co-leader Dave Prentice. Dave is an avid birder/photographer and a frequent photo contributor to DFO's (and CFO's) print and digital publications. All levels of photography experience are welcome, and you can come even if you are not a photographer. State Park Pass required for all vehicles.

From 6:45 AM - 11:00 AM. Register

### Friday, October 4 - Ponderosa Preserve



With special permission we will visit Aurora's Ponderosa Preserve set aside to preserve a native stand of Ponderosa pine at the northern extent of the Black Forest. Here is an opportunity to see some native forest and grassland habitat that forms an island of natural habitat in an area of increasing growth. We will bird our way through the preserve to add to the current baseline of birds documented for this eBird hotspot.

From 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Register

## Additional Upcoming Field Trips



Here's a sample of trips coming up soon. Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information and additional upcoming field trips. These trips were still open as of the date of this message, but they do fill up fast.

Register for Other Trips

[Join DFO members to staff tables at birding and other wildlife-celebration events](#)

## Participate in DFO Outreach Events

Join fellow DFO members to staff tables at birding and other wildlife-related events in the metro area. Share your enthusiasm for birds and DFO with table visitors, teach binocular skills to families, spend time visiting other booths and share additional resources available from DFO.

[View DFO Other Events](#)



**Girl Scout Day at Dinosaur Ridge**





Join DFO at Dinosaur Ridge for [Girl Scout Day](#). We'll have a DFO table at this annual regional event. Share your enthusiasm for birds and DFO with table visitors, teach binocular skills, spend time visiting other booths and share resources available from DFO. [Register](#)

## Refuge Day at Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Help DFO celebrate [National Wildlife Refuge Day](#) on September 28 at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge, 6550 Gateway Road, Commerce City, CO 80022. We'll have a booth, and we encourage you to join us at this wildlife-rich refuge. [Register](#)

## GOT BLURBS ON BIRDS?

Email your items, photos and any questions to [DFO Communications and Outreach](#). We love to hear Colorado birding newsbits, eBird news, tales from the trails, personal birding life (and life birds!) milestones and more.

### Denver Field Ornithologists

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# **dfo** **BULLETIN** DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS



The calendar says autumn but the thermometer keeps saying summer. Our barometer, though, is the birds. They continue to move, and we continue to follow them — in the field and in the new issue of *The Lark Bunting*, Denver Field Ornithologists' mostly monthly newsletter. The November 2024 edition is now available on the club website at <https://dfobirds.org/DFO/LarkBunting.aspx?id=1284324606#gsc.tab=0>.

Inside you'll find news on DFO's outreach to new audiences, a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary tribute to the city of Denver's most popular eBird destination, an aerial ballet in photographs between a Peregrine Falcon and a flock of shorebirds, and so much more. And don't forget: It's membership renewal season from now through the holidays.

Good reading, and good last-of-autumn migration birding, everyone!

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# **dfo** **BULLETIN** DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS



October 14, 2024

DFO members, volunteers and guests,

Please help celebrate our all-volunteer organization at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Day — and it's happening this Saturday.

## **DFO VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY**

This Saturday, Oct 19, 2024

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR, Visitor Center

Please [register](#)

We will provide breakfast snacks and coffee alongside our presentation of the club's awards for volunteerism, plus a live-bird presentation.

Please [register soon](#) to ensure your presence at this important highlight of our club.

### **Map to the Arsenal Visitor Center**

The links below will take you to the Visitor Center. Once you have clicked on the link, replace "Denver, CO" in the starting location box with your starting location address for personalized directions and drive times.

- [Apple Maps](#)
- [Google Maps](#)

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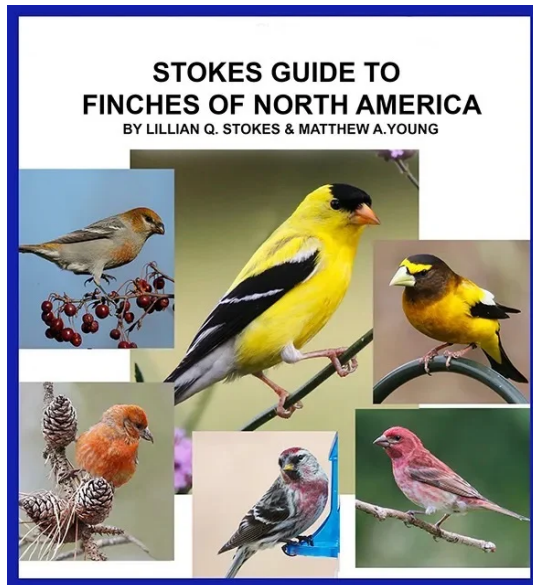
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# **dfo** **BULLETIN** DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS



DFO's Monthly Program for October  
presents

## **Crossbills, the Finch Research Network, and the new Stokes Guide to Finches**

**Monday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.**

**[REGISTER](#)**

What makes a finch a finch? A heavy, conical bill meant for cracking open seeds, right? Not so fast, says Matthew A. Young, one of the nation's foremost researchers into the finch branches of the avian family tree. It's more complicated than that.

Young will discuss all this and more in DFO's October evening program.

For more information, visit the [November 2024 issue of The Lark Bunting](#), page 10.

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## DFO Digest

### Updates & Reminders

October 2024

Sit back and enjoy our free monthly Evening Programs and Bird Bombs

## Stream a Live Program



Monday, October 28

### Crossbills, the Finch Research Network, and the new Stokes Guide to Finches

At 7 p.m. MT via webinar.

What makes a finch a finch? A heavy, conical bill meant for cracking open seeds, right? Not so fast, says **Matthew A. Young**, one of the nation's foremost researchers into the finch branches of the avian family tree.

Bill size and shape are "no longer the case with taxonomy," says Young, president and founder of the Finch

Research Network and an expert in the many calls of the Red Crossbill, another finch family member. Young will discuss all this and more in DFO's October evening program.

Young is co-author of the Stokes guide. There was "no guide to finches for the United States, if you can believe it," he notes. He's also the audio engineer behind much of the bird call and song recordings for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Merlin Bird ID app. And he works with the Rosy Finch Working Group, which he says, "is looking into how climate change may play a big role in the future of rosy finches."

He is co-leader of the International Evening Grosbeak Working Group, which is "trying to figure out what led to a 92% decline" in the species in the past 50 years.



Register



Monday, November 25

## American Dipper: A Magical Mountain Friend

At 7 p.m. MT via webinar.

DFO's November evening program will explore dipper ecology and the adaptations that make the unique lifestyle of this chunky little bird possible. Guest speaker **Jessie Reese**, a senior avian ecologist with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, will also examine dippers' distribution on the Front Range, including migration and movements from high country and foothills down to urban areas in winter.

The timing of Reese's presentation couldn't be better for us: Stand by for dippers soon!

Reese has studied birds and their habitats for the past 15 years in numerous far-flung places, from the swamps of Virginia and meadows of Yosemite Valley to Pacific islands and Amazon jungles. She earned her master's in science from Virginia Commonwealth University, traveling from there to Panama and Colombia to study migratory connectivity (how closely birds follow direct trajectories to common migration destinations) in Prothonotary Warblers.

With its constant diving, bobbing and rock-hopping in shallow rapids, the aptly named American Dipper is an unusual passerine. No wonder it evokes such delight when we encounter it. Coloradans are fortunate to have abundant dipper habitat along our mountain streams and urban and suburban creeks along the Front Range and west.

Register

Thursday, November 21

## Colorado ID Masters

At 7:00 p.m. MT via webinar.

Learn the challenges of identification for Colorado birders.



[Register](#)

Get out there for a fun learning experience

## Take a Guided Field Trip

### Northeastern Colorado



Mon, Oct 28, from 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This full-day field trip with David Suddjian will explore out the 1-76 and South Platte corridor to visit reservoirs and fields in the northeast counties. We may range as far as Jumbo Reservoir, and visit birding hotspots in Sedgwick, Logan, Washington and Morgan counties. We will look for geese, swans, ducks, cranes, hawks, loons and late shorebirds. Trip Difficulty: Strenuous

[Register](#)

### Waneka Lake Park & Greenlee Preserve



Fri, Nov 1, from 7:30 – 10:00 a.m.

This is a developing birder trip. We'll look for wintering ducks and gulls on the water. As we move around the path we'll listen for sparrows, chickadees and more in the vegetation. On our walk, we'll stop by the feeders and boardwalk at Greenlee Preserve to see what is grabbing a seed snack or hiding in the water reeds. This is a great trip for developing

birders who wish to improve their ID skills on ducks and other wintering birds of Colorado. Trip Difficulty: Easy

[Register](#)

## Lake Pueblo State Park

+

Sat, Nov 2, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Waterbirds will certainly be a major focus – we’ll scan for loons, ducks, grebes, gulls and more from the lake’s best vantage points – but we’ll also be alert for raptors and land birds in the park’s desert habitats and in wooded areas below the dam. Trip Difficulty: Moderate

[Register](#)

## Fairmount Cemetery/High Line Canal

+

Sun, Nov 10, 7:30-11:30 a.m.

We will be birding in one of Denver's finest arboretums. We will be on the lookout for winter sparrows like Dark-eyed Juncos and White-crowned sparrows and mixed flocks of chickadees, Brown Creepers, Red-breasted nuthatches, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. I’m hoping we’ll find Townsend’s Solitaires and a variety of woodpeckers. Trip Difficulty: Moderate

[Register](#)

## Additional Upcoming Field Trips

+

This is just a sample of trips coming up soon. Visit the Upcoming Field Trips page for more information and additional upcoming field trips. These trips were still open as of the date of this message, but they do fill up fast.

[Look into more trips](#)

## Volunteer with DFO at Events

Join fellow DFO members to staff tables at birding and other wildlife-related events in the metro area. Share your enthusiasm for birds and DFO with table

visitors, teach binocular skills to families, spend time visiting other booths and share additional resources available from DFO.



### DFO's Volunteer Appreciation Day — Oct 19, 2024

#### DFO's 2024 Volunteer Awardees

**Special Recognition:** Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch, accepted by Natalie Uschner-Arroyo, Janet Peters and David Hill.

**Meadowlark Award** for essential work behind the scenes:

Peter Stoltz, for faithful board service, introducing DFO to Zoom technology and mastering the art of webinar programming.

Jim Esten, for generous sharing of photography, ensuring integrity of our website and enabling effective communications via email.

**Peregrine Award** for innovation: John Breitsch, for smart innovation, meticulous planning and selfless leadership of exceptional field trips.

**We love our volunteers.** Please join in the fun.

## GOT BLURBS ON BIRDS?

Email your items, photos and any questions to [DFO Communications and Outreach](#). We love to hear Colorado birding newbits, eBird news, tales from the trails, personal birding life (and life birds!) milestones and more.

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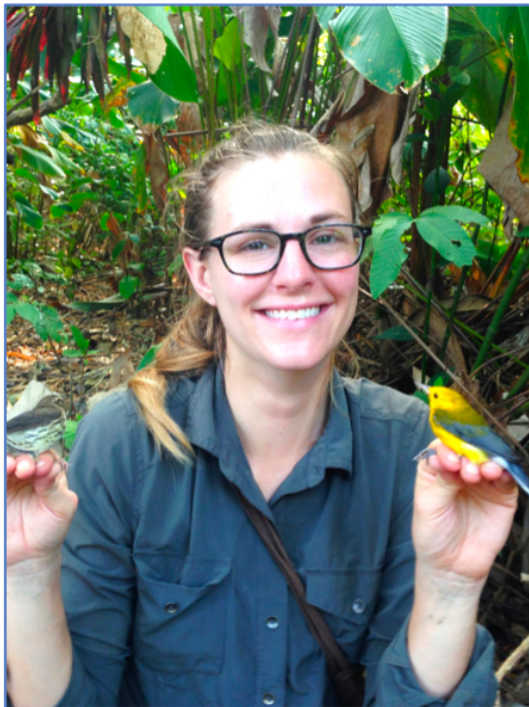
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## Learn to bird



### American Dipper: A Magical Mountain Friend

Monday, November 25

7 p.m. MT via webinar. [Register](#)

DFO's November evening program will explore dipper ecology and the adaptations that make the unique lifestyle of this chunky little bird possible. Guest speaker **Jessie Reese**, a senior avian ecologist with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, will also examine dippers' distribution on the Front Range, including migration and movements from high country and foothills down to urban areas in winter. The timing of Reese's

presentation couldn't be better for us: Stand by for dippers soon!

Reese has studied birds and their habitats for the past 15 years in numerous far-flung places, from the swamps of Virginia and meadows of Yosemite Valley to Pacific islands and Amazon jungles. She earned her master's in science from Virginia Commonwealth University, traveling from there to Panama and Colombia to study migratory connectivity (how closely birds follow direct trajectories to common migration destinations) in Prothonotary Warblers.



These cases are perfectly simple and easy to distinguish. In a free hour, when our power of choice is untrammelled and when nothing prevents our being able to do what we like best, every pleasure.



## **Bird Bombs: COLORADO ID MASTERS**

Thursday, November 21

At 7:00 p.m. MT via webinar. [Register](#)

Learn the challenges of identification for Colorado Birders.

## **Bird Bombs: CBC EXPLOSION**

Thursday, December 12

At 7:00 p.m. MT via webinar. [Register](#)

Get ready for the Christmas Bird Counts with review of some key ID challenges.

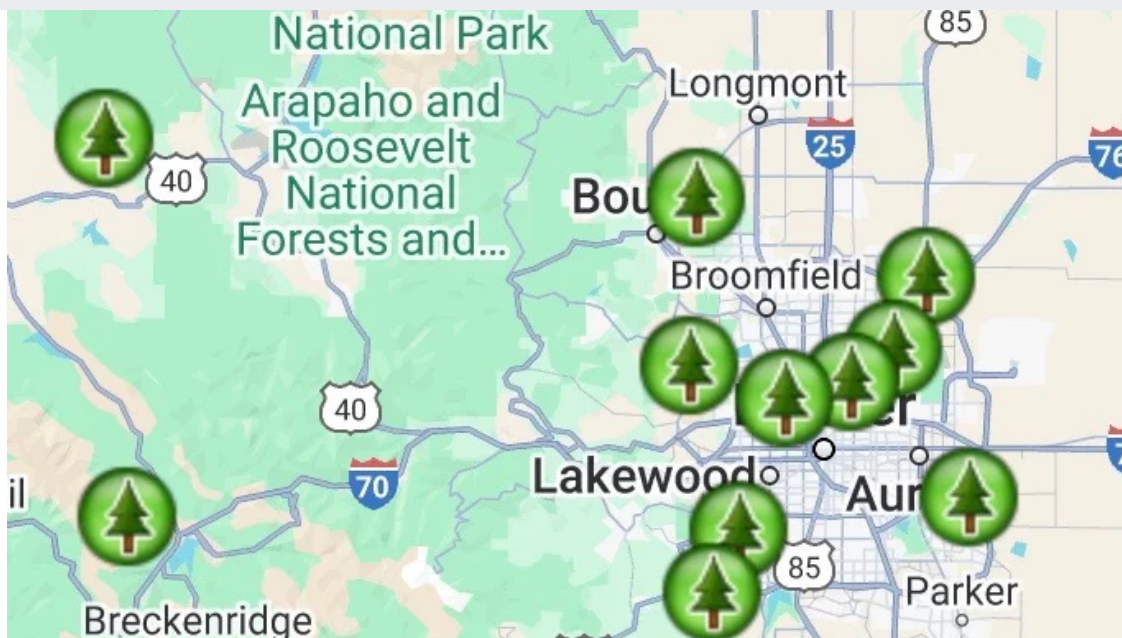
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## **REVIEW PAST PROGRAMS**

[Past Programs](#) – A few examples:

- The State of Birding, Ted Floyd
- Hawk Watch at Dinosaur Ridge: Raptor ID, David Hill
- BIRD BOMBS: Assfeet, David Suddjian

## **Bird to learn**



# Field Trips

## Waneka Lake Park & Greenlee Preserve (Patch Birding Trip)

- Mon, Dec 9. 7:15 AM - 9:15 AM
- County: Boulder
- Trip Difficulty: Easy
- Register <https://dfobirds.org/FieldTrip...>
- This is part of an ongoing monthly walk series that focuses on getting out early before work to see what birds are around the Waneka/Greenlee hotspots. Plan on covering 1.5 miles of flat gravel trails as we scan the lakes, visit the feeders, and check the brush for birds.

## Grand County

- Wed, Dec 18  
7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
- County: Grand
- Trip Difficulty: Moderate
- Register <https://dfobirds.org/FieldTrip...>
- This trip focuses on fall/early winter migrating waterfowl including Barrow's Goldeneye and other high mountain birds from Pine Grosbeaks and Crossbills to recently returned Rough-legged Hawks (and maybe N. American Otter).

## DIA Raptor Alley (Patch Birding Trip)

- Sun, Dec 22
- County: Denver
- Trip Difficulty: Easy
- Register <https://dfobirds.org/FieldTrip...>
- This trip will focus on raptor ID and it will be a good opportunity for those who want to go to the next level of identifying the species in greater detail, such as aging individuals, determining sex, and identifying individuals to subspecies.

## Join us on the wing

Your membership in the Denver Field Ornithologists bird club means you support free online education programs, free field trips, programs like Hawk Watch, Bird Bombs, evening guest speakers, and more.

SOME WAYS TO HELP DFO SOAR

**BECOME A NEW MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**



<https://dfobirds.org/DFO/Membership.aspx>

## **DONATE TO DFO**

<https://dfobirds.org/DFO/Donations.aspx>

Visit the DFO Donation page and select a designated donation to fund: DFO hawk watch, friends of DFO, or the research, education and conservation grant fund.

## **COLORADO GIVES (YEAR ROUND) - DFO**

<https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/Denver-Field-Ornithologists>

## **COLORADO GIVES (TIME LIMITED MATCHING GRANT FOR DFO HAWK WATCH)**

<https://www.coloradogives.org/story/Dfohawkwatchdinoridge>

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[Unsubscribe](#)

# **dfo** **BULLETIN** DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS



Happy Thanksgiving! The December issue of *The Lark Bunting* newsletter of Denver Field Ornithologists is now available on the club website at <https://dfobirds.org/DFO/LarkBunting.aspx?id=1284324606#gsc.tab=0>.

In the 38 pages of our largest issue ever is news of DFO's Rookie of the Year field tripper, a new series of "Coffeehouse Chats" for face-to-face DFO socializing, a photo gallery and words about field trip pilgrimages to Pipit Hill near the Colorado-Kansas border, a feature on major efforts to revive the declining cormorant colony in Denver City Park, how to join in the Denver Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 14, and more end-of-year news and views.

We'll also update you on the conversion of this newsletter into a quarterly journal starting in January 2025 and the start of a new monthly email newsletter, *DFO On the Wing*. Plus: lots of photos of birds and of DFO birders like you on DFO field trips.

One more reminder: Don't let your DFO membership expire at the end of this year! Read more about renewing — and also about making a year-end charitable gift to DFO — in this final newsletter of 2024.

Good reading, good winter birding and the happiest of all the holidays this season!

**Denver Field Ornithologists**

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# **dfo** **BULLETIN** DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS



December 9, 2024

## **Here's your chance to make a difference for birds**

Colorado Gives Day is Tuesday, December 10. If you've already donated, thank you! If you haven't yet, we *really* need you.

Your generous donations go towards supporting a variety of programming, including field trips, educational webinars, communications like The Lark Bunting journal, research grants, and the Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch project.

This year your donation can go even further...

**There's a 100% MATCH available  
at the [DFO Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch Fundraiser](#).**

But we're only 40% of the way to meet the match and we need **YOU** to help us **UNLOCK** an additional **\$2500** from a generous donor.

**Let's make this [MATCH](#) happen  
and support DFO in all its endeavors!**

We sincerely appreciate you supporting a great cause. We're making good progress toward the match goal, and some of your fellow supporters have had their gifts matched but please don't let our donation match opportunity slip away.

**[Give now to the DFO Hawk Watch Fundraiser](#)**

December 10



ColoradoGivesDay.org



**Don't Miss Out on Exciting Prizes  
while Donating to COGives!**

When you donate \$100 or more on Colorado Gives Day, you'll be entered to win a Southwest Airlines voucher (\$400 value). One winner will be announced each hour. Plus, Colorado Gives Foundation will award one bonus round-trip ticket after midnight to a donor who gave \$100 or more throughout the day.

Fifteen nonprofits will have a chance to win an extra \$2,000 during Colorado Gives Day Power Hours. Be sure to give between the hours 10-11 AM to help boost our chances.

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# **dfo** **BULLETIN** DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS



Greetings birders.

We truly appreciate your membership in DFO and hope you have enjoyed DFO's field trips, programs, and newsletter in 2024. December is a great time to renew your membership and continue your support and participation in the coming year. For your convenience, memberships can be renewed for up to three years. <https://dfobirds.org/DFO/Membership.aspx> While you're renewing your membership please consider supporting DFO with a gift to one of our dedicated funds. You can read about your options for donating on our website at Donate to DFO <https://dfobirds.org/DFO/Donations.aspx>. To the extent it applies to your personal situation, donations to DFO are fully tax deductible.

This is also a great time to consider gift memberships for the people on your holiday gift list who enjoy birding.

Whether you want to renew, join, or purchase a gift membership, the DFO website, <https://dfobirds.org/> makes it easy. Go to the Membership page and you will be prompted to log in. The benefits of membership are outlined there, and you can make your selections. You can opt to pay electronically through PayPal (you can use a credit card without setting up a PayPal account) or send in a check.

Thanks in advance for being an important part of DFO!

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**December 2024**

**From the editor.** Over the past several months we have been testing a variety of approaches to the design and content of the monthly DFO Digest. That's because starting January 2025, we will replace the Digest with "DFO On the Wing, DFO's monthly newsletter." This new newsletter will provide timely news, announcements, updates and reminders with brevity. The new monthly newsletter is designed to work in concert with the upcoming change of The Lark Bunting from a monthly newsletter to a beautiful quarterly journal — a transformation from monthly to quarterly under the auspices of our favorite birding journalist, Patrick O'Driscoll (see page 7 of the final monthly TLB, the [December TLB](#), page 7).

We will continue to rely on our DFO committees to provide action items for your awareness. DFO remains open, as always, to your suggestions and feedback: [comm@dfobirds.com](mailto:comm@dfobirds.com).

-Mike Fernandez, chair, Communications and Outreach Committee, DFO.

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## **FROM OUR PRESIDENT, SHARON**

**DFO's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.** We were founded as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935 and renamed Denver Field Ornithologists in 1964. Look for a four-part history of the club in our birthday year's quarterly issues of The Lark Bunting journal. And look for DFO On the Wing to keep abreast of events to commemorate this milestone for Colorado's oldest bird-related organization, from programs to field trips and more.

**Coffeehouse Chats.** I'm proposing a new, official but casual DFO function: the Yellow-breasted Chat, whose chatty array of seasonal chirrs, rattles and squawks catches birders' ears along the Front Range. On the **third Wednesday of each month**, we will meet at a different coffeeshop with a designated DFO host. All who attend are expected to patronize our meeting place, buying a drink or treat. We'll choose locations close to Denver metro area parks and green spaces so attendees can go birding on their own before or after our meetup.

- **Next Coffeehouse Chat.** St. Mark's Coffee House, 2019 E 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver. **Wednesday, Jan. 15, 8:30 a.m.** RSVP to January's host, Patrick O'Driscoll, at [patodrisk@gmail.com](mailto:patodrisk@gmail.com). I invite you to consider hosting a


future Coffeehouse Chat. There's certainly no shortage of friendly local coffeeshops in Denver and surrounding communities. Who's up for hosting in February? Hosting is easy; just drop me a line and we'll set it up and send out invitations.

**Oh, the beautiful books!** We have a special collection of donated bird books, and we want to make them available to our members, perhaps as gifts. These books are historic and deserve a special place on your bookshelf or coffee table. Visit our [DFO eBay site](#) for more information.

## FROM OUR DFO MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, CYNDY

**CONNECT WITH DFO**

Every donation of time and dollars helps



**JOIN OR RENEW TODAY**

Enjoy the benefits of membership

**SUPPORT DFO WITH YOUR PURCHASES**

**DFO GEAR**

### Join, Renew, and gift a membership

Each year in the fall we reach out for DFO membership renewals and new members. If you have enjoyed DFO's field trips, programs and newsletters, please consider joining, renewing or giving a gift membership before the end of 2024.

While you're renewing your membership, please also consider supporting DFO with a gift to one of our dedicated funds: Research, Education & Conservation, Friends of DFO, or Hawk Watch.

If you select to pay through PayPal, the DFO link will open a PayPal window. If you already have a PayPal account, it will ask you to select your "pay with" account, complete the purchase and then return you to DFO. If you don't have a PayPal account, visit their website and sign up. Or pay by check.

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## FROM OUR GUEST PROGRAMS GURU — JIM

**DFO Presents: No Boundaries for Wildlife:** Saving Tropical Birds in Colorado, by Nic Korte. Jan 27, 2025. Registration opens soon.

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## FROM OUR FIELD TRIPS LEADER — DAVID

- [Southeast Arizona Sky Islands and Other Hotspots.](#) May 15-26, 2025. This trip opened for registration on Dec 15 and remains open to January 15. The trip is limited to eight people total but is open now for all interested persons to register for a chance to go.
- [DIA Raptor Alley.](#) Sun, Jan 12, 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
- [Aurora Reservoir.](#) Fri, Jan 17, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- [Waneka Lake Park & Greenlee Preserve.](#) Mon, Jan 27, 7:15 - 9:30 AM.
- [Other Upcoming DFO Field Trips](#)

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## FROM OUR BIRDBOMBS DROPSTER — DAVID

[Raptors for Real.](#) Identifying winter raptors like we see them in the field. Jan 23, 4:00 PM.

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## FROM OUR HAWK WATCH CHAIR — NATALIE

**Colorado Gives 2024** results are in. Colorado Gives Day (Dec 10) was a success. Thank you for your continued support of DFO. We are happy to report we reached the matching threshold for the generous Hawk Watch fundraiser grant.

[Reminder.](#) Colorado Gives is open year-round for donations to DFO. If you missed the campaign and the matching grant window, you can still donate at your convenience and make a significant impact in funding for our hired professional migrating raptor biologists.

### Denver Field Ornithologists

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